

**Letters****Residents in highway's red line living in limbo****Dear Editor:**

We are on the red line of the freeway where we might face the bulldozer, and we might not.

But who knows and who cares anyways?

We want to sell now but who will buy?

We had bought a bigger house thinking we will move into it after selling this one. Now we are stuck and finding it really hard to make ends meet. We have been left in this state of limbo where you do not know what will happen for two more years!

Why did the city give the land to builders just two years ago when it knew that a freeway was coming. Does anyone listen? I actually asked the Arizona Department of Transportation official, and he said he doesn't know. How convenient is that?

We are in the Woodside division of homes right at the end of Pecos Road. All we were told by our builder was that the back yard would be a green belt and no house would be built. A freeway had been planned somewhere south of Pecos Road.

We paid extra for the land and the view, paid more taxes than Chandler to be in Ahwatukee, and now the city says all that was just a bunch of bull – 'cuz we are ready to bull doze you, and we had been planning it for 20 years.

Just because the city and ADOT are slow and bad planners we are suffering for being honest tax paying residents. Planning after all means to think ahead of the possibilities. If Pecos was the only option why were we

not given more definite information?

No one in their right mind would have bought those homes if they knew. So is the city involved in playing its residents for a fool along with the builder? Everyone here seems to be a winner except the people along the Pecos Road. Yes the city needs a freeway but why on this alignment alone. The city of Phoenix is growing so rapidly surely there have to be alternatives, more roads to consider. If not then there needs to be better compensations and better answers for people along Pecos Road. To this date we don't even know if they will depress the freeway, most probably it will be a raised freeway. It's like ADOT is saying to us "My way or the highway."

**Gayatri Mehta**

**Freeway meets needs of entire Valley****Dear Editor:**

I have been a resident of the Valley since 1961 and an Ahwatukee Foothills resident since 1989. I have seen it all when it comes to building freeways around and through the metro area. People were in an uproar over building Interstate 10 through Phoenix, state Route 60 through Tempe and Mesa, and the Loop 101 through Scottsdale. Now we cannot imagine what it would be like to move across the city without them. The South Mountain Freeway is no different.

After reading the guest commentary by Jim Jochim (AFN Dec. 7, 2005) I felt compelled to respond. In his article Jim stated that "The majority of homeowners do not want it [the freeway] and that was demonstrated by

the substantial turnout at the Grace Inn on Nov. 17." I was at the meeting as were others who want to see the freeway built. So the actual number of people that do not support the freeway were only part of the 2,100 or so in attendance. Besides, the last time I looked, 2,100 people do not make a majority in a community of approximately 100,000 people no matter how you slice it. These kinds of exaggerations are typical of the outlandish and emotionally charged comments made by this very vocal minority when the freeway issue is discussed.

Perhaps it is time that the majority of Ahwatukee Foothills residents that are in support of the freeway along the Pecos Road alignment stand up and get vocal ourselves. I am ready to be counted. I support the freeway fully. I've agreed with the proposed alignment since before purchasing my home. Yes, I did my due diligence prior to the purchase, and believe we need to stop studying and start moving dirt.

Some homeowners are going to face property value challenges, and unfortunately some will be displaced. However, the freeway is needed and while some may disagree, it will benefit the entire Phoenix-metro population. As a part of the Valleywide community, we need to look beyond the wants of a few in the Ahwatukee Foothills and consider the greater needs of the metro-area as a whole.

**Mike A. Cummins**